

APPEAL NO. 030359
FILED MARCH 11, 2003

This appeal arises pursuant to the Texas Workers' Compensation Act, TEX. LAB. CODE ANN. § 401.001 *et seq.* (1989 Act). A contested case hearing was held on January 16, 2003. The hearing officer determined that the preponderance of the evidence supports the independent review organization's decision that the appellant's (claimant) proposed surgery is not medically necessary. The claimant appealed on sufficiency of the evidence grounds. The respondent (carrier) responded, urging affirmance.

DECISION

Affirmed.

We have reviewed the complained-of determination and find that the hearing officer's Decision and Order is supported by sufficient evidence to be affirmed. The disputed issue presented a question of fact for the hearing officer. The hearing officer is the sole judge of the weight and credibility of the evidence. Section 410.165(a); Texas Employers Ins. Ass'n v. Campos, 666 S.W.2d 286 (Tex. App.-Houston [14th Dist.] 1984, no writ). There was conflicting evidence presented on the disputed issue. It was for the hearing officer, as the trier of fact, to resolve the conflicts and inconsistencies in the evidence and to determine what facts had been established. Garza v. Commercial Ins. Co., 508 S.W.2d 701 (Tex. Civ. App.-Amarillo 1974, no writ). Nothing in our review of the record reveals that the hearing officer's determination is so contrary to the great weight and preponderance of the evidence as to be clearly wrong or manifestly unjust. As such, no sound basis exists for us to reverse that determination on appeal. Cain v. Bain, 709 S.W.2d 175, 176 (Tex. 1986). See also Texas Workers' Compensation Commission Appeal No. 021958-s, decided September 16, 2002.

The hearing officer's decision and order are affirmed.

The true corporate name of the insurance carrier is **FEDERATED MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY** and the name and address of its registered agent for service of process is

**RUSS LARSEN
860 AIRPORT FREEWAY WEST, SUITE 500
HURST, TEXAS 75054.**

Daniel R. Barry
Appeals Judge

CONCUR:

Thomas A. Knapp
Appeals Judge

Robert W. Potts
Appeals Judge